The WAKEFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

PTA Bulletin

Vol. II No. 2 November 1954

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

SECOND REGULAR PTA MEETING - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30

Parents of Wakefield students will go "back to school" at the next PTA meeting, Tuesday, November 30, at 8 o'clock, following the schedule of their own children, meeting their teachers, and learning the contents of the various subject matter fields. There will be a general meeting first in the Boys' Gym, at 8 o'clock, to transact necessary business.

Parents will be furnished, the day before the meeting, a schedule of their children's classes, with teachers' names, class periods, and home rooms listed. After the general meeting, they will go to the appropriate home room to begin a typical day of classes, going from room to room just as their children do. The class periods will be only about 10 minutes, but long enough to enable the teachers to discuss the objectives of the class and some of the typical procedures. The public address system will be used to signal the close of each class period.

This program offers an unusually fine opportunity to get better acquainted with Wakefield, with your children's teachers, and with the subjects they are studying. It helps us to get better acquainted with each other, too. Let's take full advantage of it.

A representative of the PTA Membership Committee will be in each home room on this evening to enroll new members.

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STUDENTS CONDUCT HOSPITAL DRIVE

We take off our hats to the students of Wakefield, Washington-Lee, and Hoffman-Boston High Schools who performed such a fine community service when they solicited funds on Wednesday evening, November 17th, for the building fund of the Arlington Hospital. Two nearby Fairfax County High Schools also participated. This project was undertaken by the students in a spirit of rendering voluntary assistance to a worthwhile community enterprise and of reciprocating to some extent for the many services the community offers its young people. This student effort merits high commendation.

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PROPOSED PTA BUDGET FOR SCHOOL YEAR 1954-55

Income:			
Actual:	Balance at beginning of year	$344.06	
	Membership dues received to date	553.75	
	Miscellaneous received to date	1.00	$898.81
Estimated:	Additional membership dues	$346.25	
	Additional miscellaneous	4.94	351.19
			$1250.00
Expenses:			
Fixed Charges - Dues (based on 1700 members):		$340.00	
State @ 20¢ per member		$340.00	
National @ 5¢ per member		85.00	
Northern Virginia District @ 1½¢ per member		25.50	
Arlington County Council ¢:			
$4.00 for first 100 members and			
$2.00 each additional 100 members		36.00	$486.50
Committees:			
Curriculum:			
Parent Education - books, etc.	$30.00		
Other Functions	10.00	$40.00	
Exceptional Child		15.00	
Health		25.00	
Hospitality		70.00	
Publicity:			
Postage and Postal Permit	110.00		
Paper & other supplies	90.00	200.00	
Speech Representative		10.00	360.00
Miscellaneous:			
Arlington County Council for American Education Week		10.00	
Dedication of School, Travel to Conventions, and other contingencies		293.50	303.50
Carry-over to next school year			100.00
			$1250.00

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LIKE TO SING?

The Arlington County Department of Recreation and Parks is at present sponsoring a Civic Choral of mixed voices as a free activity for all interested members of the community. This group meets on Tuesday evenings from 8:00 to 10:00 P.M., under the direction of John V. Totten, at the Walter Reed School, 1644 No. McKinley Road.

Registrations are now being accepted for the new term which began November 16th. If You are interested in joining such a choral group, please call the office of the Department of Recreation and Parks, Jackson 7-8888.

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CALENDAR OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Nov. 26	J. R. C. 8 to 10:30 P.M.
Dec. 3	10th Grade Party 8 to 10:30 P.M.
Dec. 4	Fall Athletic Banquet 6:30 P.M.
Dec. 10	Basketball - Geo. Washington vs Wakefield - 7:00 P.M.-at home
Dec. 11	Wakefield Senior Recreation Club(SRC) - Dance, 8 to 11:00 P.M.
Dec. 14	Basketball (Richard Montgomery vs. Wakefield) - 3:30 P.M.-home
Dec. 16.	Y Party - 7:30 P. M.
Dec. 17	J. R. C. 8 to 10:30 P. M.
	Basketball (Annandale vs. Wakefield at Annandale) 7:00 P.M.
Dec. 22	Basketball (George Mason vs. Wakefield) 1:30 P.M. - at home
Dec. 23 -	January 3 - Christmas Vacation
Jan. 4	Basketball (Landon vs. Wakefield) 3:30 P.M. - at home
	(Fairfax vs. Wakefield J.V.) 6:45 P.M. - at home
Jan. 6	9th Grade Parents' Meeting, 8:00 P.M., Room 101(program counsel)
Jan. 7	Wrestling - Wakefield at Bladensburg, 2:15 P.M.
	Basketball (Washington-Lee at Wakefield), 8:30 P.M.
Jan. 8	J. R. C. 8:00 to 10:30 P. M.
Jan. 11	Basketball (Herndon at Wakefield), 7:00 P.M.
Jan. 14	Basketball (Stratford Jr. High at Wakefield), 3:30 P.M.
	Wrestling - Washington Lee at Wakefield, 6:45 P.M.
	Basketball at Wakefield-(Osburn vs. Wakefield), 8:30 P.M.
Jan. 15	S. R. C. 8:00 to 11:00 P.M.
Jan. 18	Basketball (St. Stephens at Wakefield), 7:00 P.M.
Jan. 20	7th Grade Parents' Meeting, 8:00 P.M. (program counselling)
Jan. 21	Basketball (Wakefield Jr. High at Williamsburg) 3:30 P.M.
	Basketball (Suitland vs. Wakefield), 3:30 P.M.
	J. R. C. 8:00 to 10:30 P.M.
Jan. 25	Basketball (Wakefield Jr. High at Thos. Jefferson), 3:30 P.M.
	Basketball (Mt. Vernon at Wakefield), 7:00 P.M.
Jan. 26, 27, 28 -	In-service education period for teachers-no school for students.
Jan. Date to be announced	PTA Meeting, 8:00 P.M.

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DISCUSSION GROUP MEETING A SUCCESS

On Thursday, November 4th, about 520 parents and teachers gathered in 39 different classrooms to discuss problems of all kinds. Since each group chose its own problems to talk about, it is interesting to note that the following came up in every grade: habits of study and homework; grading, testing, conferences, and guidance; length of lunch period; need for more buses; discipline and undesirable behavior. Also of general concern were: incentives to better scholarship, field trips, school spirit, college preparation, athletics, social events and library deficiencies. Many other questions were raised; some answered, some unanswered.

For a well-planned, worthwhile evening, thanks are due the many parents and teachers who moderated the discussions, took notes, or telephoned, as well as the following who were in charge of arrangements: 7th grade - Mrs. Harry Howard and Mrs. James Linde; 8th grade - Mrs. Eliot Coulter and Mrs. Howard Lehman; 9th grade - Mrs. Alfred Letzler and Mrs. R. C. Bryant; 10th grade - Mrs. R.S. Wheeler and Mrs. Harry Wirin; 11th grade - Mrs. J. M. Hunter and Mrs. Jas. McGlathery; and Consultant - Dr. Harold Wilson.

The Curriculum and Parent Education Committee of the PTA, which planned the program, is holding meetings to sift the questions and ideas and to convert them into action or bring them to the attention of the proper persons. More meetings will be held to explore questions and get desired information.

PARENTS' MEETING ON COLLEGE PREPARATION

The first of the meetings scheduled as an outgrowth of the Nov. 4th meeting described on page 3 of this Bulletin, will be a panel discussion on January 13th, at 8 o'clock, at the school. The panel will be composed of education leaders who will attempt to answer questions in parents' minds concerning requirements looked for by colleges, current trends in enrollment, scholastic standing required of students to enter certain fields, etc. Further details will be announced at the Nov. 30th meeting.

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BUS SERVICE

On Saturday morning after the November 4th meeting, Mrs. Gammon, Chairman of the Wakefield Advisory Committee, presented to the School Board the request of Wakefield parents for more bus service to alleviate crowding and to transport children after varsity athletics. The Board indicated that there was no money available for additional bus service for wakefield for the rest of the year. We must plan now to scrutinize the next School budget to see that more bus service is provided next year.

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THE PTA APPAREL SHOP

Won't you join in the Apparel Shop "bundle" drive at our November 30th meeting? Please bring any items of your children's best clean, outgrown clothing. A carton for them will be provided at the meeting.

The Apparel Shop, sponsored by the Arlington County Council of PTA s provides free clothing to needy students in our public schools. The idea originated with school nurses, principals, and counselors who found many inadequately dressed youngsters, due to low family incomes, illness in the family, or fathers temporarily out of work. Since its inception in September, 1953, more than 90 families, or nearly 300 individuals, have been helped. Each school's Health Committee has one member who is its Clothing Chairman. She conducts periodic "clothing drives" for clean outgrown clothes, in good wearable condition, marked with sizes when possible. Wakefield's Clothing Chairman is Mrs. Michael Mehan. The garments received are dispensed free to any student or parent presenting a referral slip from his school principal, nurse, or counselor. The Apparel Shop is open every Thursday, except holidays, from 10:00 A. M. until 3:00 P. M., with Mrs. O. R. Buchanan, Chairman, in charge.

PTAs are invited to contribute cash to the Shoe Fund, so that new shoes may be purchased when sizes needed are not otherwise available.

With only four more Thursdays until Christmas, please remember your clothing "bundle" on November 30th. Extra supplies are urgently needed.

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HOMEWORK - TOO MUCH? TOO LITTLE?

The matter of homework seems to be a perennial problem among parents of students of all ages and grades. The question was discussed at each grade level at the November 4th meeting. Some parents thought that children had too much homework; others felt they had too little. It is not an easy problem to solve to the entire satisfaction of teachers, students, and parents. Apparently, for what comfort this offers, it is not only at Wakefield that there is no unanimity of thought on the matter. According to a recent Gallup Poll, parents of high school-age children, who were asked if high school students today are given too much, or not enough homework, to do replied as follows: 10% said they are given "too much", 42% said "not enough," 36% said the amount is "about right," and 12% expressed " no opinion."

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QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARENTS

There will be distributed in the home rooms, at the Nov. 30th meeting, the following questionnaire which parents will be requested to answer and turn in at that time. We are urged to study this and be ready with our answers/ If you are unable to attend the meeting, please use this page to record your choice of policy and send to your child's home room teacher.

"Last year a temporary rule was established to prohibit smoking anywhere on the school grounds at Wakefield. The school endorsed this position for a number of reasons. Practically everyone agrees that it is desirable to postpone the smoking habit as long as possible. Authorities especially point out that during the period of rapid body growth one should refrain from smoking. When smoking is permitted at school, the social pressure to conform (which teen-age students feel quite keenly) may accelerate the introduction of smoking into the individual's habit pattern. However, it is recognized that social custom in some localities permits smoking by high school students at school and that many parents in our community permit their older teen-age children to smoke at home. Therefore, it has been thought advisable to ask for the opinion of parents before establishing a more permanent ruling at Wakefield. The fact that Wakefield is a Junior as well as a Senior High School, where younger students must be considered in setting patterns of behavior, should be kept in mind. If smoking were permitted at Wakefield, it would be restricted to a designated area outdoors.

Bearing in mind the above factors in the situation, please check your answers to the following questions. It is Important that you express your views on this matter.

1. Should the present rule of no smoking anywhere on the school grounds at Wakefield be continued? yes ( ) no ( )
2. Should smoking by students in the senior class (12th grade) ONLY be permitted in a restricted area on Wakefield school grounds? yes ( )no( )
3. Should smoking by all students at the senior high school level be permitted in a restricted area on Wakefield school grounds? yes ( )no( )
4. Comments:

(one questionnaire to each family, please)

Grades of your children at Wakefield. _____ _____

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WAKEFIELD'S GROWING LIBRARY

The main function of the PTA Library Committee this year is to assist the librarians in developing Wakefield Library to a level at which accreditation can be assured. The work load of the committee is quite heavy now, but will taper off as the library is built up

The response of the mothers of the students has been outstanding. Each day, two of them are needed, and the work has gone along without interruption. The schedule through December 17 is filled.

The following work has been accomplished since September:

1. A long bibliography typed for mimeographing;
2. Approximately 1,500 cards alphabetized and filed in card catalogue;
3. Approximately 300 book pockets and cards typed;
4. Approximately 300 book pockets and cards pasted in books.

The librarians would like to receive a liberal number of back copies of good magazines, such as Reader's Digest, National Geographic, etc.

All interested in participating in the work of developing Wakefield Library should contact Mrs. W. C. Ramey, Otis 4 - 7846.

Have you subscribed to the National Parent-Teacher Magazine? If not, place your subscription with Mrs. Ramey.

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STUDENTS LEARN TO MAKE FULL USE OF LUNCH PERIOD

The lunch period, which seemed much too short at the beginning of the year now appears to be long enough for students to eat their lunches and have time left over. The Student Council has recognized that most of the cafeteria behavior problems that are experienced generate in the "left-over" time and is requesting that the lunch period be shortened by three minutes. They would like to add the three minutes to the passing time from the cafeteria to the next class period.

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(one questionnaire to each family, please)

Grades of your children attending Wakefield

_____ _____